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E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/03/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [AORC](#) [KPAO](#) [PTER](#) [UNSC](#) [KNNP](#)
SUBJECT: 1540 COMMITTEE: RUSSIANS SEEK TO REPLACE RUSSIAN
ON COMMITTEE'S GROUP OF EXPERTS

REF: A. ISN EMAIL TO IO/USUN/EUR
(WUCHTE/WILCOX)-07/01/2008
[1](#)B. ISN EMAIL TO IO/USUN (PURCELL/WILCOX)-06/26/2008

Classified By: Minister Counselor for Legal Affairs, Carolyn L.
Willson, for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) Russian Deputy Permanent Representative Shcherbak approached USUN on June 25 to request U.S. support for a Russian candidate to replace the Russian national currently serving on the 1540 Committee's Group of Experts, Viktor Slipchenko. Shcherbak said the Russian Federation wants to handle the matter quietly and expeditiously, without having the Committee solicit nominations from all Member States to fill Slipchenko's slot. USUN assured Shcherbak that the United States would work with and support the Russian Mission on the matter. The contracts for all of the Committee's Group of Experts will expire on July 31 unless the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs renews them or appoints new experts with the consent of the Committee.

[1](#)2. (C) Separately, the French Mission has advised USUN that France intends to nominate a French candidate to serve on the Committee's Group of Experts. The French representative to the 1540 Committee has advised that he understands that Brad Howlett (Australia) or V. Siddhartha (India) may both be planning to leave when their contracts expire, leaving open two slots. USUN has requested the name of the French candidate, and the French Mission has advised that he is an official with the French Ministry of Defense who has extensive experience relating to implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and nonproliferation issues generally. Consistent with the permanent members' convention, USUN would expect to receive instructions to support both the Russian and French candidates for these positions.

[1](#)3. (C) Before ODA has extended contracts to members of the Committee's Group of Experts in the past, the Committee has circulated a diplomatic note to all UN Member States, inviting them to nominate candidates. ODA and the 1540 Committee then vetted the nominees and recommended candidates to the Committee for its approval. In recommending candidates, ODA and the 1540 Committee Chairman considered nominees' qualifications, the Committee's need for experts knowledgeable in the different substantive areas addressed by resolution 1540, and the need for geographic representation.

[1](#)4. (C) COMMENT: Moscow's desire to replace Slipchenko may reflect its dissatisfaction with the initial drafts of the 1540 Committee's report to the Security Council on states' compliance with resolution 1540, which resolutions 1673 and 1810 require. Moscow may blame Slipchenko for what it evidently saw as a flawed report. Whatever the reason behind Moscow's approach, replacing Slipchenko would be useful. He has been one of the less proactive and productive members of the 1540 Committee's Group of Experts and has actively worked against U.S. interests in some cases. END COMMENT.

